

IMPASSABLE

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STAND-BY POOL

1973CZec: Tom Hubbard, for France
1975OS: Edi Birsan for England, Henry Bear for Germany, and John Kador for Italy.
New Standings: McIlvaine, Fujihara, Brooks, Kelly, Kendter, Luft, Blank, Swies, Albano, Hyatt, Birsan, Bear and Kador.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This is supposed to be a gala issue, but it all depends on how much time it will take as I would prefer to stick with the schedule rather than have this issue come out late!

Nevertheless, a few words should be said about Impassable...it has been a good four years since I started publishing and a good five years since I entered the postal hobby of Diplomacy by mail. Two people stand out in my memory "bank" who have aided me greatly in starting my own publication: Don Miller and Rod Walker. There could not have been two people more different from each other than these two. The only things they had in common was a love for literature (science fiction and fantasy), and a love for Diplomacy and in helping the hobby to organize itself.

Don Miller is no longer active, but Rod Walker, as you all are aware, is still with us.

Through the long four years I have come to know many more people besides Don and Rod. The experience has been both fun and one of learning. Impassable has become an established and respected publication in the hobby. I have grown very fond of my hobby and intend to stay with it at least for a few more years.

Impassable grew rather quickly in its first year, ending up with a circulation of 100 by its first anniversary issue. The circulation has now crept up to 155 and is still slowly increasing all the time.

The gamezine has continued its high printing standards. Fine articles have continued to appear within its pages and games have continued to fill its pages. A new record in number of games carried was reached when Impassable absorbed my other gamezine, Lost Horizons. LH as well as Aquarius did not last long, but my first is still going strong.

What does the future hold for Impassable? Who knows? I'm hoping to turn it into more of a genzine with less games and more news and articles. It will probably be distinctly of my own hand rather than simply an imitator of, say, Diplomacy Review. I am still trying, you might say, to find my personal niche in the limited field of amateur publishing, as it is with all of us in postal Dippydom.

As soon as enough games are completed and releasing needed space, as soon as that large backlog of supplies for wax stencils are used up or sold, and as soon as I'm ready, Impassable will undergo a metamorphosis.

Impassable stands for the proverbial, "the middle of the road" course of action in the postal hobby. I have always favored the International Diplomacy Association as a necessary instrument in furthering the progress of the postal hobby.

Those good old days, of which I barely caught in its dying days won't be returning. With Diplomacy now in the house of Avalon Hill, the signs are taking a quick turn towards growth and expansion. That will mean, of course, more hopes and more problems to contend with. Diplomacy will become a part of big business. But, there will always be us, the amateur dippy publishers, still around. #end#

VERHANDELN

by Lewis Pulsipher

((Editor's Note: Somehow, I have mixed up the order of Lew's column. Last issue contained, not #8 as reported, but #7. This chapter is #5. With this episode, we will have printed all chapters from #1 through #7. I suppose I was mixed-up by reading Sack's column...))

At the suggestion of super-collector S. K. Howard I have begun to number Verhandel'n. The numbering system follows order of composition, not order of printing, so you may see 8, say, before you see 7. The numbering thus far is 1-GM/PG, 2-IDA/DVC, 3-DRS, 4-Criticism, 5-Response to Ablehnen 1&2, 6-Suggestions for House Rules, 7-Potpourri of several topics. I'd like to note before I start that DRS informed me that they had decided to maintain several different ratings in their magazine, but I have not heard from or of DRS since early December. ((This was written Jan. 23, 1976))

RESPONSE TO ABLEHNEN 1 & 2

I have never had a living shadow before, let alone one so clearly bent on an adversary stance. It is easier to criticize than to advocate or defend, but I will answer as I can. Of course, I told Mr. Sacks before Verhandel'n ever saw print that one installment would concern his wrongful condemnation of IDA. I suppose he prepared Ablehnen as a column in order to give an air of greater respectability to his reply, and in order to help discredit my comments on DVC by discrediting me generally.

In Ablehnen #1 Sacks exhibits his penchant for thinking in legal (and thus not always practicably applicable) terms. IF the organization I proposed had some overt means of enforcement, then indeed, to permit a majority to establish any standard would be disastrous. But it must be recalled that such an organization would depend on peer-pressure, on very broad support, in order to accomplish anything. Any standard would be enforceable only because a large portion of the hobby's influential publishers, certainly more than a bare majority, supported the standard. 5% of the IDA (the Council) or 55% can impose its will quite effectively on the rest of IDA, and in some cases on the hobby as a whole; while 55% of the members of a GM/PG might vote in favor of some absurd standard, they could not effectively impose it on the hobby. In fact, they would probably destroy the influence of the organization if they tried anything which was strongly opposed. What good would its "seal of approval" be if only 55% of the GM/PG supported it--and presumably the more foolish half, if such indiscriminate rules having little to do with reliability as a requirement for mimeo reproduction were established? Any move to establish an absurd standard would destroy the org. But any move to avoid any standard to which one or two exceptions can be found would render it useless as well. Mr. Sacks' rule of thumb mentioning John Boardman is itself absurd. Boardman is obviously a very exceptional GM/P. But for every Boardman there are a dozen would-be Boardman's who burnout. A limitation on number of games would reduce the number of such burnouts, while not harming the established people such as Boardman and Boyer, who can find players no matter what else is going on. If there were some means of overtly enforcing the standards, then the exceptional publishers might be "decimated"; but the only means available is public opinion, and public opinion strongly favors people like Boardman and Boyer. It is obvious that if you avoid any standard to which there is an exception, your standards--if you can find any at all--will accomplish nothing.

I must emphasize that there is no overt means of enforcing these standards. Some people seem to have nightmares about "big brother" plucking them out of bed for the torture chamber. THINK! There is no way anything like this could occur. Does anyone believe that such an organization could, in this hobby, become so unified on every question that any overt means of enforcement could be agreed upon--even if one were conceivable? I think not. At any rate, it is clear that many people would rather let players walk down the burnout trail than try to do anything positive to prevent it. (See the anonymous article in Impassable #57 for examples of the atrocious GMing standards found in zines today.)

Turning to Sacks' comments on the IDA Evaluation Committee, I might note that he is incorrect--the standards were determined by experienced GM/P. Also, before the strike several people privately recommended some change in the lateness criteria, and this was accomplished.

(cont. page 6)

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COMMENTS ON 1973AYec and the variant 1721 are due Thursday, April 8, 1976. Final Game Report will be nextish.

Final Fall 1730 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: ~~hap~~, hol (1)
England: hom, ice, den, chr, por, ~~set~~, got, ast, pom, war (12)
France: hom, net, sav, rhi, gra, mad, tun, sar, mil, tyr, cre, nap, pap, sev, sic (18)
Ottomans: hom, ~~hap~~, vie, bud, boh, ~~pap~~ (8)
Poland: lit, ~~hap~~, pru, pos, kra, han (5)
Russia: hom, var, sto (6)
Spain: ~~hap~~ (0)

Press--

Constantinople: This has been a very enjoyable game for me. Best of luck to all players.

1973BU, Autumn/Winter 1922 & Draw Vote

Errors: Overlooked printing of two English orders: f bal-swe, and f eng-nth. Also, left out German f lyo-tus.

Draw Vote: Defeated by Russia and Italy?!!
((who are they kidding??))

Autumn 1922: Austria retreated a gal-rum

Winter 1922:

AUSTRIA(Kovalcik): b a bud
ENGLAND(Greenwell): b a edi, a lvp
GERMANY(Barents): b a kie
ITALY(Kelly): sp
RUSSIA(Hendry): sp
TURKEY(Blank): ~~b/a/con~~/not open/, will be 1 short.

SPRING 1923 due Thursday, April 8, 1976

Winter 1922 Positions:

Austria: a tri, a boh, a vie, a ukr, a rum, a bud (6); England: a spa, f tyn, f wes, f tun, a mos, a stp, f swe, f nth, a edi, a lvp (10); Germany: a pie, a tyr, a mun, a sil, a ukr, a war, a ber, f naf, a kie, f tus (10); Italy: a rom (1); Russia: a sev (1); Turkey: f nap, f ion, a ven, f adr, f con, will be 1 short (5).

Press--

Constantinople to Sevastopol: Sorry old buddy we just couldn't pull it off--if only Hulland had stayed around we had the line one move away--damn!

"There are a lot of senile delinquents too, and they'd be worse than juvenile delinquents if they only had the strength!"

--Lawyer Bailey.

1973CZec, Summer/Fall 1729

Error: We're back in the 18th century....

Clarification: When this GM does not get a vote on a vote from a player, it is automatically counted as a negative vote. Thus was the case with Poland.

England questioned the impossibility of his last season's order of f lon s f sco(wc)-yor(wc). This is the same as with Spain's double coasts in the reg. dip!

Summer 1729: England retreated f nwg-ice, and f nth-sco(ec).

Fall 1729:

AUSTRIA(Drews): a bav/boh ((can't win them all, Harry!))

ENGLAND(Kadlecek): f yor(wc) h, f lon s f sco(ec)-nth, f sco(ec)/nth, f ice/nwg

FRANCE(Hubbard?): a net, a ndy, a rhi, a tou, a sav all hold. GM is removing Monahan and is asking Tomb Hubbard, Rm. #115, Spens-Black Dorm., 2400 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94720 to take over.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE(Mahler): f aeg-cen, a ast s a kie, a bul-rum, a bud-vie, a mor h/u/, a tyr/rhi, a ven-mil, a mil-bor(sc), f bri s pol f nth-eng/nso/, f lyo c a mil-bor(sc), f ara(sc) s a mil-bor(sc), f wes s f ara(sc), f sar s f wes, f sty s f wes, f bar/mid, a kie h/u/

POLISH EMPIRE(Rocalionheart): f nth-cly, f nwg s f nth-cly, f den-nth, f ska s f den-nth, f chr s f den-nth, a sto-got, f bal-den, a arc-mos, a mos-est, a min s mos-est, a kra h, a col-hol, a han s a col-hol, a kas-col, a sax-kas, a boh s a sax-kas, a pom s a han

SPAIN(Swies): f sev s f gib, f gib s f mid, f graf/ara, a mad/ara, f mid s f gib

WINTER 1729 due Thursday, April 8, 1976

Fall 1729 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: ~~hap~~ (0) Out of game.

England: lon, ire, sco, yor, ice (5) bl

France: ver, tou, auv, sav, net, rhi (6) bl, was 1 short

Ottomans: hom, cre, sic, tun, bud, nap, vie, sar, pap, kie, mil, bri, tyr (17) bl, lost 1

Poland: hom, pom, pru, stp, arc, sto, got, den, var, mos, boh, chr, han, ~~hap~~, hol (17) sp

Spain: hom, por (5) sp.

Ripley's Believe it or not: Sheila Granna, an art student at St. Andrew's U., Edinburgh, Scotland, can write 40 words a minute--backwards and with her left hand. ((Weird!))

1970BJ, Spring 1920/Vote

4-Way Draw Vote: Defeated by Russia.

Spring 1920:

AUSTRIA(Beyerlein): a bul-gre, a alb s a bul-gre/r/(ser, otb), a tri s a alb, a bud s a tri, a tyr s a tri, a vie s a tyr

GERMANY(Mahler): a mun s aus a tyr, f hol s rus f nth, f hel s f hol

RUSSIA(Kelly): f nwg/nat, a yor/lvp, f nwy s f nth, a den/yor, f nth c a den-yor, f bal/kie, a ber/kie, a sil s ger a mun, a war-gal, f stp(nc)-bar, a con s a smy, a smy s a con, a arm-syr

ITALY(Phillips): f nat/lvp, a wal/lvp, f eng-lon, f bel-pic, a ruh-bel, a bur s a ruh-bel, a pie/tyo, a ven/tri, f adr s f gre-alb, f gre-alb, f nap-ion, f ion-aeg, ~~f/nt/~~sev/nsu/

FALL 1920 and Concession Vote to Russia due Thursday, April 8, 1976.

1971Dbu, Spring 1917 and 5-Way Draw Vote

Draw Vote: Defeated by Italy and Austria.

Spring 1917:

AUSTRIA(Tilson): f bla s a con-bul, a sev h, a arm s a sev, a bag-nej, a con/bul, a jor s a bag-nej, a syr s a jor

CHINA(Swies): all units hold. f tim obb, f tim, f sia, f mal, f jav, f ben, a raj, a snd, a dec, a afg, a ira, a nep, a kan, a bma, f can all hold.

ENGLAND(C.D.): f fire h

GERMANY(Proujansky): a stp s a omsk, a oms h, a mos/sev, a ukr s a clu-rum, a clu-rum, a gal s a clu-rum, a vie-clu, a tyo-vie, a bud h, f edi h, f edi-cly, f nwg s f nat, f nat h, f eng/mid, a lon h, f hel-nth, f bel-pic, a pic-par, a bre-gas, f bal h, a mun-tyo

ITALY(Osmanson): f cey s f win, f ara-per, f win s f cey, f mor-wes, f sat-mor, a ser-bul, a tri/pen, f red-egy(sc), f aeg s a ser-bul, f ade s a tri-pen/imp/, a nej ~~f/r/~~(yem, otb), f ion s a tri-pen, a spa-por, a ven-pie, a gre s a ser-bul

JAPAN(Drews): all units hold. f mad, f ein, a tur, a sib, a skg, f npa obb, f npa, f spa, f mid all hold.

SUMMER/FALL 1917 due Thursday, April 8, 1976.

"I am misanthropos, and hate mankind.
For thy part, I do wish thou wert a dog,
That I might love thee something."

--Shakespeare.

1972BW, Autumn/Winter 1920

Autumn 1920: Russia retreated F Con-Aeg.

Winter 1920:

FRANCE(Kelly): SP

GERMANY(Davies): SP

RUSSIA(Knudsen): B A Mos

TURKEY(Abbott): B F Smy, will be 3 short

SPRING 1921 due Thursday, April 8, 1976.

A late Printing of Fall 1920 SCC:

France: ~~par~~, bre, mar, ~~spa~~, por, hol, ~~lvp~~, ~~lvp~~ (4) sp, was short.

Germany: kie, ber (2) sp

Italy: ~~lvp~~ (0) Out of game

Russia: stp, war, mos, ~~sev~~, mun, den, swe, nwy, edi, bel, ~~lvp~~, ~~par~~, lon, lvp (12) bl

Turkey: ank, smy, con, gre, bul, ser, tri, vie, sev, bud, rum, spa, tun, ven, rom, nap (16) bl, will be 3 short.

And now, the Winter 1920 Positions:

France: f hel, a hol, a bur, a mar (4);

Germany: a kie, a ber (2); Russia: f nat, f lvp, f lon, f nth, f den, a par, a gal, a boh, a pie, a tyr, f aeg, a mos (12); Turkey: a sev, a apu, a tri, a vie, f rom, f spa(sc), f tyn, f bul(sc), a bud, f ion, f ank, a con, f smy (13).

1973AYec, Summer/Fall 1730

FRANCE CLOSES WAR WITH GAINS

Error: Spanish order f wes/sev failed. Also failed to list Ottoman's a bul-rum order.

Summer 1730: Russia NMR. GM retreats a rum otb.

Fall 1730:

AUSTRIA(C.D.): A hol, a ver, a gal all hold

ENGLAND(Hubbard): a got s f chr, f chr s a got, f nwg s f chr, f bot s a got, a yor/hol, f nth c a yor-hol, f ska-den, f bal s a pom, a pom h, f por/sev, a ast h, a min-war

FRANCE(Drews): f nty-nap, f cen s f nty-nap, a tus-pap, a mil s a tus-pap, f lyo-sar, a tyr h, a swi s a tyr, a mad-sev, a gra s a mad-sev, f ore/aeg, a rhi-kas, a col/han, a ndy-net, f sty-sic

OTTOMAN EMPIRE(Osmanson): f pap(nc) s f nap/r/, f nap s f pap/r/, a boh s a vie, a vie s a boh, a wal s a vie, a tra s a rum-bes, a rum-bes, a cau h, a con-bul, f smy/aeg

POLAND(Swies): a han s a bra-han/imp/, a pos/bra, a war-kra, a pru-lit, a bra h/u/
RUSSIA(Monahan): NMR. f ang, f sto, a var, a mol, a ast all hold.

1974HN, Spring 1907

AUSTRIA(Osmanson): f eas-ion, a gre h, a tri s a vie-tyr, a vie-tyr, a tyr-boh, a bud-gal
 ENGLAND(Fujihara): f nwg-nwy, f lon-nth, f bar/stp, a liv/pru/a/, a stp/liv
 FRANCE(McKeon): f bre-eng, a par-pic, a mar-bur, f lyo-spa(sc), a ven h, a tus s a ven h, f tyn-rom, f nap s f tyn-rom, f tun/ion, a ber s rus a boh-mun/nso/
 GERMANY(Kelly): a ruh-mun, a kie s fra a ber, f bot-bal, f den s f bot-bal
 ITALY(Swies): f rom/nap/a/
 RUSSIA(Blank): a mos-liv, a ukr-mos, a war s a mos-liv, a boh-sil, a pru s a mos-liv, f bal/ber/r/(swe, otb), f aeg s aus f eas-ion

SUMMER/FALL 1907 due Thursday, April 8, 1976

1974HY, Autumn/Winter 1906

Errors: France a mar-spa stood off Italy f wes-spa(sc). France a mar has to retreat. Also, Russia f nth-den succeeded.

Autumn 1906: France retreated a mar otb. Germany, NMR. GM retreated f den otb.

Winter 1906:

FRANCE(McLendon): sp
 GERMANY(Fanelli): nmr, will be 1 short
 ITALY(Kendter): b a ven, f nap
 RUSSIA(Gallagher): sp

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Winter 1906 Positions:

France: a lvp, f cly, f eng, a bre (4);
Germany: f lon, a kie, a edi, a par, a bur, a bel, a ber, a war (8); Italy: a mar, a tri, f lyo, f wes, f eas, f aeg, a bul, a bud, a gal, a ven, f nap (11); Russia: a ukr, a mos, f rum, a ank, f con, f den, a swe, f bal, f nth, a sev (10).

1975G, Fall 1906

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY SUFFERS! FROM 7 TO 1 CENTER IN ONLY TWO GAME YEARS! SORRY HINMON!

GM Note: Sorry, if I left out the Russians in my summer positions lastish. Also, it should be noted that England has a fleet in the Mid-Atlantic.

Fall 1906:

AUSTRIA(Hinmon): a bud-vie, a tri s a bud-vie/a/, a ser s a tri/a/

ENGLAND(Cooper, T.): f mid-spa/imp, coast not specified/, f bre s ger a par-gas, a nwy-stp, f bar s a nwy-stp, f eng-iri
 FRANCE(Kendter): a gas-mar/a/, a spa h, f nat-lvp
 GERMANY(Amer): f fin s eng a nwy-stp, f nth-eng, a par-gas, a mun-tyr, a ber/pru, a tyr-pie, a boh-sil, a bur-mar
 ITALY(Young): a vie-tri, a alb s a vie-tri, a ven s a vie-tri, f adr s a ven, f gre h
 RUSSIA(Sabo): f stp(nc) h/a/, a bul-ser, f bla-bul(ec), a war/pru, a mos-liv, f aeg-ion, a rum s a bul-ser, a gal-bud,

WINTER 1906 due Thursday, April 8, 1976

Fall 1906 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: ~~hnd~~, ~~trf~~, vie, ~~ser~~, ~~hnd~~, ~~trf~~ (1) sp, lost 4
 England: ~~lvp~~, lon, edi, bre, mwy, stp(5) sp
 France: mar, por, spa, lvp (4) bl, be 1 short
 Germany: hom, hol, den, par, swe, hol (8) sp
 Italy: hom, tun, ~~trf~~, tri, gre (6) bl
 Russia: mos, war, sev, ~~stp~~, ank, con, smy, rum, bul, ser, bud (10) b2, will be 1 short.

1975T, Fall 1905

AUSTRIA(Mahler): a ukr s tur a sev-mos, a war s tur a sev-mos, a pru s ger a ber, a boh s ger a mun, a tyr s ger a mun, a ven s tur a rom, a pie/tus, f adr s tur f aeg-ion, f gre s tur f aeg-tion
 ENGLAND(Fujihara): a den-ber, f bal c a den-ber, f swe-den, a liv/pru, a stp h, f nth-hol, f bot/liv
 FRANCE(Lawson): f tun/ion, f tyn s Ita f nap, a mar-spa, a bur-mar, a kie s eng a den-ber, a ruh-mun
 GERMANY(Wardon): nmr. a ber h/r/(sil, otb), a mun h
 ITALY(Birsan): f nap s fra f tun-ion, f tus/rom
 RUSSIA(Lakofka): nmr. a mos h/a/
 TURKEY(Brooks): a rom s f ion-nap, f ion/nap, a sev-mos, f aeg/ion

AUTUMN/WINTER 1905 due Thursday, April 8, 1976

Fall 1905 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: hom, ser, gre, rum, ven, war, bul (9) sp
 England: hom, nwy, stp, den, swe, hol, ber (9) b2
 France: hom, spa, bol, ~~hnd~~, kie, tun (7) bl, was 2 short

Germany: mun, ~~per~~ (1) rl
 Italy: nap, ~~rom~~ (1) rl
 Russia: ~~mos~~ (0) out of game
 Turkey: hom, sev, rom, mos (6) b2

Press--

Ankara: To Moscow--Hi! Len, a new game; bye, bye, Len; sorry you couldn't stay around!

1975AF, Spring 1906 & 2-Way Draw Vote

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA WINS ON TWO-WAY CONCESSION!

GM's Note: I did not believe that this game would end so soon! I thought that for sure Russia would say no. But, he didn't and since everybody else deigned to say yes, the game's over! Still, I suspect that someone may be having second thoughts...

Sorry, Buz, but I had to ask you for your game orders by phone so you wouldn't know what the vote situation was despite the fact that as proposer of the draw you would be likely to vote yes anyhow...

Well, the game's over and so the Spring moves are unnecessary...

GAME COMMENTS due Thursday, April 8, 1976.
 Wrap-up history report will be done then.

1975CS, Sigh.....

GM POSTPONES GAME TO PUT IN NEW RULERS!

GM NOTES: First of all, Jim Cooper is now resigning from all his dippy activities which includes this game. Also, no orders were received from Strittmatter and McDonald. This is once too often for both gentlemen. So, three new players are needed and taking them right off the top of our stand-by list and in order for these countries alphabetically:

ENGLAND: Edi Birsan, 35-35 75th St., Apt.
 302, Jackson Hgts., NY 11372

GERMANY: Henry Bear, 2 Meadow Court, Midland Park, NJ 07432

ITALY: John Kador, 1316 Wyldewood Rd., C-1,
 Durham, NC 27704

SPRING 1904 due Thursday, April 8, 1976!

Good luck, gentlemen, and I certainly hope that this game will now be able to move smoothly and efficiently to a speedy and decisive end!

Creditors have better memories than debtors.

VERHANDELN, CONT.

Ablehnen (2): It is strange to find someone whose column is titled "refuse" to condemn another for failing to be constructive. It is particularly difficult to understand in this case, since I have in other places contributed constructively in many of the areas Sacks mentions specifically. Since Sacks seems more interested in personally attacking me than in addressing himself to what I said, I will digress to reply.

Variant Handbook: in lieu of one, I have contributed variant material to each IDA Handbook, and I have published the SF&F Variant Package. No one else has done anything having to do with a handbook as yet, except for the questions asked on Dave Kadlec's variant survey, which I initially drafted (the questions, not the entire survey!). Bibliography: in fact, as Mr. Sacks well knows, I am the person who suggested this, to DVC. I asked for help: no one volunteered, and in fact the only immediate comment was criticism of the DW staff for being uncooperative (from Ray Heuer)! Ratings: my suggestions and proposals are in Diplomacy World Vol 2, #2. Orphan Rescue Service: I was the first person to run a rescue service for variant orphans only; I hope that is sufficient. Playtesting Service: this is another activity I recommended to DVC; only one person volunteered to help. MN recategorization: I gave my recommendations to Sacks and others when this was first suggested. Awards: I opened a design competition in the latest DW. And among other things, I am the person who proposed the Miller Number Subsidy, which Sacks has said is so important, after I passed on the MN Custodianship in 1973. I generally choose to put my constructive variant efforts into DW or private activity; Verhandeln #2 had to do with wrongly-made accusations, not variants per se.

Even if you can get through the "by rights", "matter of equity", "ex officio's", and legal this and that, you may wonder what Mr. Sacks is saying. For example, how can something be "ignored" when it is "(defeated)"? Try these substitutions: for "declined consideration" or "ignored" read "disagreed with Sacks" and you will have a much better understanding of what he means. If your opening premise is that IDA is obligated to aid Robert Sacks in every way he desires, at least in variant activity, then Sacks is correct in many ways. I doubt, however, that many will accept the premise. (cont. next pg)

VERHANDELN, CONT.

The disagreement between IDA and Sacks began with his change in the character of the IDA Variant Committee. IDA objected to Sacks' definition of "principal variant officers" including, as it did, people unknown on the variant scene even though they held variant offices (generally, in TDA--not a legitimate organization at all in the eyes of many Councilmen). Some may have objected to the "practical application" Sacks mentions whereby anyone he wanted on DVC could be created Associate MNC for something-or-other and thereby would be seated without consideration by DVC members. IDA also was not interested in pouring out funds to an organization not under its control--a reasonable stand, it seems to me--and which was doing nothing to aid IDA and had done nothing for several months. For some reason Sacks feels that IDA is obligated to support his efforts unquestionably. He apparently believes that whatever he decides to do is good for the hobby. But the IDA Council disagreed with these peculiar perceptions. The new IDA Variant Committee is intended to be what the old one was before Sacks took over. It is not an "advisory rump" nor is it a rival to DVC. IDA wants advice to come from people who are concerned with IDA's welfare as well as the hobby's, with more than milking IDA of all the money they can get. It had no reason to believe that DVC would be such. In Sacks' long list of IDA sins, remember the necessary substitutions I mentioned before, and you will see what he means.

Let Mr. Sacks' penchant for bureaucratese confuse, I must point out that DVC does not have the membership, let alone the support, of all active variant people, not in any of the three regions (NA, Britain, Europe), especially the latter. Also, "MNC staff" sounds imposing, but really means Sacks and Heuer. And VORS is a new operation which has yet to rescue an orphan, so far as I have heard.

My so-called "filibuster" was not such at all. Disregarding the debate vote ("the filibuster"), the bill would not have passed; when another vote was taken it failed dismally. My debate vote stemmed not from opposition to the bill but from a desire to know what Heuer preferred.

Members of IDA know that no one has been more disenchanted with its hypocritical stand viz democracy than I. Last year I seriously considered doing a reverse Veritas Vincit such as Sacks mentions. Nonetheless, condemnation of IDA for failing to do such-and-such in Europe or Britain ignores the relative lack of IDA people in those areas willing to do anything. Mr. Sacks may wish to split legal hairs about the subsidy, but the fact is that any MNC who assigns a Miller designation to a variant being played postally will get a subsidy if he wants it, the same as for the BMC (though not the same amount). Mr. Sacks assumes that there clearly is a British Variant Bank; in fact, there are claims and counter-claims, and it is only because Sacks supports one claimant that he is so sure a bank with legitimate demands for IDA funds exists. In fact, the bank Sacks supported at last notice has sold copies of variants without permission of the designers, something I doubt IDA wishes to condone or support, and most Britons seem opposed to the person who is attempting to establish this bank.

I cannot speak for other Council members, but I know my purpose on the Council was not to discipline Sacks, nor did anyone else mention this. In fact, a much more effective discipline would be to cut off the subsidy altogether, something no one I know of has suggested. (I might digress a moment--that someone told Sacks he was being disciplined is plausible, because he does do some very peculiar things--the latest was to assign a Miller Number to a game which does not (and obviously does not) exist. This is a section of a joke variant called TRADER--with five island center countries with one fleet each and one sea space, so that no center can ever be captured batting a foolish move and No Retreat Received. The names of five persons were listed as playing in a postal game, but no such game exists--I know, since I am one of those listed, and Sacks knows, since he is another. The players were listed without permission and were never contacted in any way aside from the joke notice. Why did Sacks give this joke a Miller Number? Does he expect subsidy money for this?

Of course, I never made any such statements as Sacks imputes to me--that since he "would not conduct business as MNC and Chairman of the then IDAVC as "I directed" I would "make a public campaign of it". That is a lie. Mr. Sacks is a liar--unless he has deluded himself so thoroughly that he truly believes that anyone who disagrees with him must, by definition, be trying to dominate and control him and the variant hobby. Whether he willfully lies or

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VERHANDELN, CONT.

not, his accusations are untrue.

The crowning stupidity of Mr. Sacks' presentation is his accusation that I am trying to "preserve my monopoly over IDA North American Variant policy." At present, I am not a member of the IDA Variant Committee nor do I intend to become one, not do I know who the members are except for Chairman Kadlecek; nor am I a member of the IDA Council, nor will I become one in the next two years. As is well known, I will almost certainly be doing dissertation research for an extended period, perhaps a year, in Britain, beginning sometime in the middle of this year. Under the circumstances only a fool could believe that I am trying to preserve a monopoly over IDA NA variant policy, even if I ever had one--which I have not. If I had wanted such a monopoly, assuming such is possible, I would have volunteered for chairmanship of the old IDA Variant Committee (and as an original member of the committee, I would have received it before Sacks); or I might have taken the chairmanship of the present IDA Variant Committee when I had the chance. Under the circumstances it is ludicrous as well as idiotic, if not malicious, for Mr. Sacks to accuse me "and a few others"--whoever they might be--of attempting to somehow "control"--whatever that is and however it could be accomplished--"the variant portion of the hobby". If Mr. Sacks would worry about doing some good instead of gaining "Power", if he would spend more time working for the variant hobby and all the projects he has in mind, and less time condemning and accusing all who disagree with him, we would all be much better off. #end#

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A few are on hand, the first is from Len Lakofka:

"At first I considered not replying in IMPASSABLE to Lew Pulsipher's 'criticism' article.

I sent a rather flippant reply to SPECULUM which has just appeared there (SPEC #29). The Pocket Armenian and Paroxysm do not care to get into this 'foud' as Bob Correll has called it, and I can't blame either of them. Since John has printed the opening letter, I have decided to reply.

Lew first says that I rated BLOOD & IRON with a C+ having not seen it for some time. That is false. Lew himself sent me two to

three copies because of some discussion in B&I on a topic of interest to me--I believe it was concerning the International Game Show, the IFW or Convention scoring. As I recall the copy I received was of poor physical quality and thus a C+ in physical quality was generous I feel. Do you recall these issues, Lew? If not I'll have to cross reference with the archives in Indiana.

Lew says that I call his comments about the NADPS 'sermonizing'. That is what I said. The Dictionary (American Heritage) defines this as "2. A lengthy and tedious reproof or exhortation." Since, I believe, that "Brevity is the soul of Wit." I saw no reason to go farther in saying why I rated the NADPS as being poor. The material is not criticized (that is, the results themselves) by using the term Sermonizing, is it? I find this remark to be quite objective and if I am alone in it--which I am not, I have gotten numerous letters saying that Lew is 'long winded' etc.--then so be it! Note that none of this has anything to do with the material--that is the results. The results are VERY important to the hobby and Rosenberg and Buchanan are correct in printing them! I printed the ballot for NADPS #2 in LD! I will be the first to praise Lew for doing the work of putting together the questions and tabulating the results! It is a long and difficult effort and Mr. Pulsipher deserves just acclaim for it!

Lew characterizes this as the 'latest vendetta'. That is nonsense! Pulsipher did cost me votes and perhaps the '74 election, but he did it because he thought he was right. I do not hold that against him.

Lew brings up the IFW--again. I did help the group grow through my personal efforts from 1969-1971. Is that right Lew? I did the majority of the typing, layout and collating through 1969, 1970, 1971 and a good part of 1972. Is that right, Lew? I did run two IFW conventions during that period. Is that right, Lew? I did get fed up with being the workhorse with NO thanks and NO remuneration. I told the senate that either they help (and the membership--who loved to play but did not want to work (on the magazine in Chicago)) or I would not do anything but my constitutional duties. Is that right, Lew? My term of office ended on December 31, 1972 and the IFW folded in the Summer of 1973. Is that correct, Lew? For how long was I to be the donkey? How long would Lew have put up with all the work and no play? The IFW cost me over \$400 (cont. next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, CONT.

and Lord knows how many hours and how many grade points in school. How much should I give Lew? None of this is misleading the voters, is it? Lew will say but IFW is dead. And I will say how much do you expect me to do? Should I say to the voters that while I worked IFW grew and prospered, when I could get no help it fell apart? Okay--I'll say it! Yet I acted in good faith and that is enough. I have no intention of talking about IFW in print EVER AGAIN!

Lew remarks on my comments on the NAG/PG. Those comments were part of a review of the Pocket Armenian (a fact Lew conveniently did not mention). A review is not the place for an in-depth comment. Also I said I agreed with Rosenberg so one need only read TPA to see my opinion!

I called Lew's Verhandeln 'tripe'. I'm sorry! The material is often very good--it is the writing style. If Lew could leave out 'or in other words', 'in my opinion', etc. and just say ONCE what he wanted to say I would print Verhandeln in LD!

Lew concludes with statistics from a survey I ran in LD (and other zines) on magazine quality. He says he is a major contributor to DW. DW is rated best magazine. Therefore, MY material is excellent. I fail to see that this follows, necessarily.

Well, there are my reasons, Lew, any fool can see them." --Len Lakofka.

Our second letter to the Editor is from Rod Walker:

"The latest IMPASSABLE is here today. I guess I have said this before, but it bears saying again, that your publication is one of the finest in the hobby. I would certainly recommend it before mine. I always enjoy every issue and always wish there were more. ((Allow me to break in here! Rod, your EREHWON has got to be one of the most provocative and scintillating gameszine in the hobby, but it is also done by the most creative publisher we have! You have those creative qualities which I lack. Keep up the great entertainment, Rod!))

Response to Pulsipher's thing. I generally find Lew less boring than Bob Sacks...but that's no particular achievement. His observations on player reputations are apt, if not altogether accurate. Some players never lose their reputations...often with good reason.

And what's wrong with "I was first", may I ask? Those who have done things in and for this hobby are justifiably proud of having done them. It's part of hobby history. Lew

has a rabid anti-historical bias, anyway, which helps account for his negativistic attitude. His stock answer to a good many problems (at least in correspondence with me) is, who cares what happened years ago, anyway? My retort is that if people in the 1970s had paid more attention to what Richard Nixon was doing in the 1950s, this country would not be in such a mess at the present time.

Lew's comments on the "reprinting" controversy smack of somebody whose mind doesn't want any confusion from the facts. Not only is free and unhindered reprinting traditional in the hobby, it is essential to hobby unity and important for all the players. Anybody who gets his stuff reprinted in a bunchazine is hardly being cheated or trampled on, and the supposition that he did or did not desire such reprints is irrelevant.

Not unexpectedly, once Lew has dismissed free reprinting as mere traditionalism, he shows exactly why the hobby must continue that custom. Speaking of some recent articles, he says, "Some people, I am sure, would like to know what has been said, but don't receive many zines and haven't seen many of the articles." What better reason for free and unimpeded reprinting than to benefit the players? Hinder universal reprinting, and the free exchange of information that depends on it, and the hobby will become sectionalized beyond any hope of universal communication.

If that is an appeal to tradition, so be it. It takes some little thinking to see how a tradition fits and how it is really needed. To argue "substitute traditionalism for thing" takes no thought at all. Anybody can jerry-rig that sort of sloganistic jingo.

Re: draw/concession votes. Funny you should mention that. I could not agree more strongly with you. What is all this "secret" jazz? I have held with your policy for years (nor was I the first; that distinction goes to the founder of the hobby, John Boardman). I have not, however, felt the need for a House-Rule on the subject until now. My HR 37 now reads:

"37. VOTES. When a vote is called for, the Gamesmaster will announce the question to be voted on and the name of the player proposing it. He may announce other matters relative to the vote and will set a deadline (usually the next upcoming season of the game in question) by which players must submit votes. After the deadline, the Gamesmaster will announce the result, indicating individually how each player cast his vote. If the

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vote concerns a concession or draw, players not voting will be counted as voting for the concession or draw which was proposed..."

Boycott "Citex". Pass it on."--Rod Walker. ((I agree with everything Rod has said except that a player missing a vote should be counted as a yes vote. I feel if the player has missed, he has missed because of the P.O. or his own forgetful memory. Most likely, the player wants to continue playing. If he misses twice in a row, he is replaced anyways so there is no problem of a player stalling the end of a game by not voting. Missing and stalling a speedy end against the wishes of everyone else will be enough punishment for missing!))

Our third letter is an excerpt of the body of a letter to me from Lew Pulsipher:

"...Print???: There are no copyright violations involved in producing variants. We are possibly violating trademark, but that can easily be remedied. The owner of the copyright of any game cannot control the production of variants, unless, perhaps, many of the rules/board from the original are reproduced as part of the variant. Avalon Hill isn't likely to try anything, because they've not bothered the many people who have produced, and even sold commercially, variants of their wargames. The only restraint on variants I know of is that (according to second-hand reports) United Artists has purchased rights to all Tolkien material except the books, and if any Tolkien Dip-variants were produced on a professional scale, UA might be expected to sue.

I doubt that AH will go to cardboard counters. I think they can produce and sell many more copies of DIP than GRI could, so that they ought to be able to continue to use wooden (or, more likely, plastic pieces without having to raise the price.

Concerning draw votes, I have to reject the "real life" analogy. DIP little resembles real life--you seldom find stabs in real life, certainly nothing like ours. Great nations do not vacillate as much as the typical DIP player (that's an understatement!). If you prefer something more like FTF, ok, but even in FTF games you can have a secret vote (blackball-whiteball placed secretly in a hat, or tell your votes to the GM)."--Lew Pulsipher

Well, that's all for letters to the Editor though we may still print Edi Birsan's public reply to Gordon Anderson's charges against IDA. The strong emotions from these "giants" of the hobby wears me down...

First of all, there's a Variant Design Competition which was announced in the Winter 1975 issue of Diplomacy World. The details are briefly: Only unpublished designs will be considered. One winner and one runner-up for each category. Winner must grant first print rights to Diplomacy World, all other rights retained by designer. Categories are: A. Science fiction or fantasy variants (excluding Tolkien), B. Historical, any period, C. Standard-board using simple variant rules (not over 1½ pages). Most important "versions" for the first two are five-players, and the last is 5, 6 or 7 players. D. Last category is "others". Note that Tolkien variants are prohibited altogether. There will be various prizes, but none are cash. I will print some of the winners allowing DW to choose theirs first.

DEADLINE is April 30th. Submit to the judge, Lewis Pulsipher, Box 1021 Graduate Center, Duke U., Durham, NC 27706. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want your copy returned after the competition ends.

I had a phone call with Edi Birsan on some answers to questions I posed in last issue concerning the sale of the game, Diplomacy to Avalon Hill. That phone call plus the bit of news from the latest issue of The General gives us the following:

1. AH will not be changing the game too much. They will, however, put it in their popular bookcase format, but retain the wooden pieces used in Diplomacy. I understand that the map will be redone somewhat.

2. They expect the price of Diplomacy sets to be around \$10.00 when they start to make them (after GRI sells all their remaining stock first) on their own.

3. They won't interfere with our "variant" aspects of the hobby. In fact, they don't really interfere with designers who make variants of their wargames.

4. It looks like that DW will continue to be a going concern with Walt Buchanan as its Editor. Apparently, AH is willing to finance the publication of DW.

5. The best news of all is that IDA now gets back into the flyer-in-the-box business. The IDA will be maintaining a post-office box (probably in New York City) with which they will send out information concerning the postal hobby. It has been confirmed that no requirement other than being a regular publisher will be necessary to be

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HOBBY NEWS, CONT.

Avalon Hill has already started their advertising campaign to sell Diplomacy when they used up a whole page in their last issue of The General in giving a synopsis of the rules to the game! They evidently are really pleased with owning the game.

You ought to read the following excerpt from their ad on Origins II:

"DIPLOMACY FANS! Origins II has the honor of hosting DIPLOCON IX, the only recognized national Diplomacy Convention. Plans are now underway to make this year's DiploCon singularly outstanding. This is the gathering that people will be talking about for years. Don't miss it!"

ORIGINS II will be held July 23-25, 1976 at John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. For Pre-registration, Tournament registration, lodging reservations, Dealer Exhibition Information: Send an SSAE to 'CONVENTION', c/o T.A.H.G.C., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214.

From Paroxysms #24, I get the following additional information: Convention times: Friday 4:00 to 2:00 a.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 a.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those are three long days!

Accommodations: On campus there are the typical dormitory facilities; price includes written room confirmation and linen service. A refundable key deposit of \$3 is payable at the door (do not send it with room fees). Make all room checks payable to Johns Hopkins University. Rates are: Single \$15/weekend (two nights), and Double \$24/weekend (two nights). To do so, write: Mitch Wolfe, Director, Office of Residential Life, Johns Hopkins Univ., 3400 Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21209. Registration for these rooms are open April 15th and closes June 30th.

There are plenty of motels, but we don't know of any except the past recommendation from Fred Davis (who lives near Baltimore) that we could room at the Baltimore downtown Holiday Inn.

More on the Origins II when it comes!

Gordon Anderson is quickly becoming more of a joke than a disaster area (though both could exist side by side) especially when some anonymous person from Michigan comes out with a joke "issue" of The Viking's Prattle-Page produced by Coopy W. Antsey-pants, and copyrighted by Viking Cisterns Uninc. Full of misspellings and terrible grammar, it is clearly a spoof though it couldn't actually do that much worst than the original copy!

There's no room to print Edi Birsan's reply this issue so that may appear in next issue. In fact, this issue is turning out to be a regular-sized issue, sorry! My big issues don't come out on schedule, if ever, so that must go if I'm to keep to my schedules. Which would you players rather have?

John Kador was impressed with last issue's quotation from the Declaration of Independence and so he wrote an up-to-date version:

A DECLARATION

By the freaks, the mindblown, and the acid-heads of the United States of America in General Congress assembled July 4, 1976.

When hassles get the brothers so uptight that they got to cut loose from The Man, and make the independence scene, without asking no permission from nobody, excepting mabe God Almighty, they then ought to let everybody know where they're coming from, so that all the dudes can dig that they're not trying to put nothing over on nobody.

Dig on this. First, me and the brothers is as good as anybody else, and maybe a damn sight better. Second, no foreign cats got no right to take us on a downer. Third, any cat got a right to take care of business, do his own thing, and score laughs whichever way he grooves as long as it's not a bummer for another cat."

Well, that certainly blew my mind for a moment...thanks John!

That new series I was telling you about? Well, Why I Win will have to wait until I finish more of my games...can't let my own super secrets do me in! Sorry, fellas!

Gee, I'm always running out of space! When I have the time, I always run out of space! Well, got to cut short the news this time around (you ain't missing much). So, rest in peace all those victims of stabs!

GAME OPENINGS ELSEWHERE

ARRAKIS #54. David Head, Box 1231, Huntsville, Ont., POA 1K0. Mimeo. They're adding some nice mimeo-picture/drawings. Openings in reg. dip. GF is \$2.00 + sub. Sub rate is 1¢/page + postage.

LIAISONS #68, Len Lakofka, 644 West Briar Place, Chicago, IL 60657. Has openings for novices. GF \$7 which includes sub. Gives rebates if you're eliminated early. Sub to this ditto zine is 9/\$2 in N. America. DIMAN, #15, Brad Hessel, 15 Oak Avenue, Tarrytown, New York 10591. Openings in reg. (cont. last page)

GAME OPENINGS, CONT.

dip. for gamefee of \$6.00. An excellent ditto publication.

IMLADRIS, #6, Jeremy S. Paulson, Apt. C-19, 63-60 98th St., Rego Park, NY 11374. Has openings for GF of \$3 + sub. Sub rate is 8/\$2.00. Mimeo.

THE DIPLOMACY BARON, #6, c/o Rod Zaccalini, 23861 Park Belmonte, Calabasas, CA 91302. Reg. Dip for sub and refundable \$1 deposit. Sub rate is 10/\$3.00. Mimeo.

EREHWON, #95, Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024. Has openings in reg. dipy at gamefee of \$8.50. A fine ditto publication filled with Rod's unique humor!

Well, that's all folks! One of these days I'll get around to doing an "in-depth" report on all these trades I get....cheers!

HUMOR SECTION

"The Case of the True Believer"

((Note: All names have been changed to protect the innocent, any similarities to real people you know in this hobby are only coincidental.--Ed.))

Walt was so sick when he went into the hospital for an operation (knife wound in the back), he couldn't even take a turn for the nurse.

After the surgery, the only turning he did was to religion. He became such a true believer, in fact, that he practically crawled off to Europe, where he did his recuperating before a shine that had acquired world fame for bringing about miraculous cures of assorted ailments.

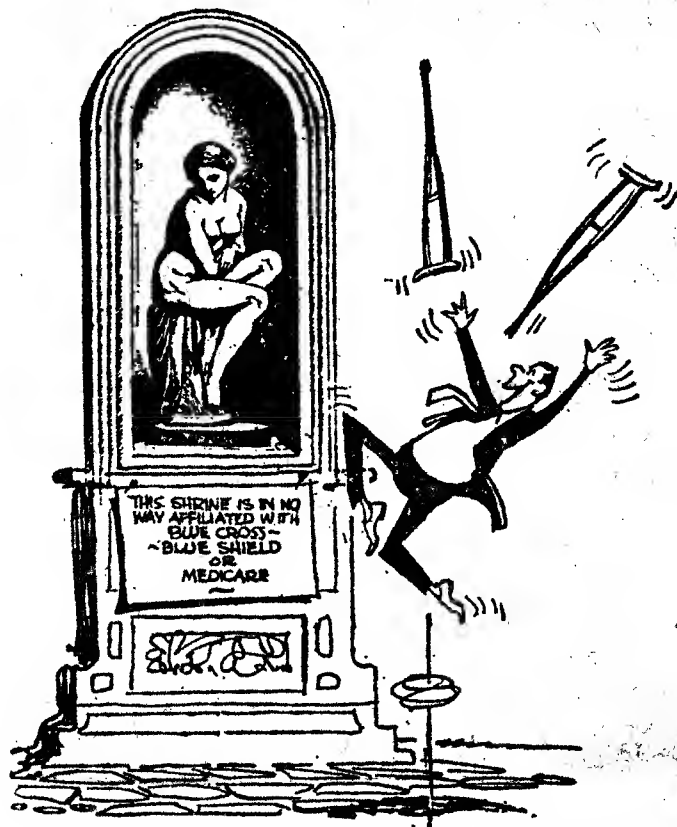
One ailment it didn't cure, however, was the severe pain in the neck Paul gave the I.R.S. when he subsequently deducted the cost of his European trip from his income tax as a medical expense.

"You can't do that," protested the men of the IRS. "You went to Europe to visit a shrine, not a doctor." "True," conceded Walt. "But physically and mentally that shrine did me more good than a convention court decision.) (The above was based upon a 1955 decision of Diplomacy players. When I got back, I felt like a

million bucks. Before I went, I couldn't lift a knife, when I got back I was stabbing everywhere!

The dispute ended up in court. If you were the judge, would you permit true-believer Walt to deduct the cost of the trip from his taxes? This is how the judge ruled: NO! The judge held that there is no provision in law that would permit, as an expense for medical care, the cost of a trip to obtain spiritual help in alleviating a physical defect (broken hand and back wound).

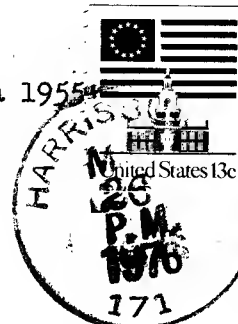
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